

# Here Are Ten New Commandments.

## A Chicago Woman Devised Them for Her Husband to Obey and the Court Declared Them Good Ground for Divorce.

These are the new commandments ten which wives now make for married men:

1. Remember that I am thy wife, That thou must cherish all thy life.
2. Thou shalt not stay out late at night, When lodges, friends or clubs invite.
3. Thou shalt not smoke indoor or out, Or chew tobacco "round about."
4. Thou shalt with praise receive my ples, Nor pastry made by me despise.
5. My mother thou shalt strive to please And let her live with us in ease.
6. Remember, 'tis thy duty clear To dress well throughout the year.
7. Thou shalt in manner mild and meek Give me thy wages every week.
8. Thou shalt not be a drinking man, But live on prohibition plan.
9. Thou shalt not flirt, but must allow Thy wife such freedom, anyhow.
10. Thou shalt get up when baby cries And try thy child to tranquillize.

These, my commandments, from day to day, Implicitly thou shalt obey.

These are the commandments that Mrs. William Schneekobler devised and posted on the walls of her Chicago home for the guidance and observance of her husband. Mrs. Schneekobler is essentially a new woman. The theory that a man is the head of his household and that his house is his castle finds no favor in her sight. The doctrine that a wife should obey her husband she tolerates not at all.

If Mr. Schneekobler had been a man of meekness, this might not have made any difference, but husbands who live "by the sword" in Chicago are not of that calibre.

So the whole affair has come out in that most prolific source of Chicago news—the divorce courts. It has served as a topic of discussion at the Germania Club; habits of Mrs. Schneekobler's have been discussed at the Lake Shore Drive.

The Schneekobler episode dates primarily from the World's Fair. It was the time in Chicago when everybody had money, and the Midway Plaisance was the Mecca of all pilgrims. No one was very particular in those days about matrimony or conjugal felicity, or what the future might bring forth. Everybody improved the present because it was theirs, and laughed at the financial panic.

These were the conditions under which William Schneekobler met Tillie Moeller. Their courtship was a brief one, and both believed that the salary William received as a bookkeeper would be ample. Like Jackson Park's big show, however, this belief did not last, for it wasn't long before the supply of ready cash began to be very limited.

Then came proof positive that the entrance of poverty and the exit of love are simultaneous. Mrs. Schneekobler's wardrobe assumed too modest proportions to satisfy ambition's fulness.

Mrs. Schneekobler told her husband that, as he didn't seem to be able to properly discharge the duties of the head of a household, she would try it awhile herself. There were joys that she did not share with him.

Presently Mr. Schneekobler's pipes and tobacco disappeared. When he objected the household's new head said if he didn't like it she'd have his mother-in-law come and live with them. She said she was sure marriage was a lottery and every day the fact was more strongly impressed upon her that she had drawn a blank.

The unhappy husband endured these unkind criticisms and bowed his head to the continued storm of language. Finally, one day, William came home after being panned in the La Salle street tunnel an hour or so by one of Mr. Yerkes's blockades and found the straw that would have shattered the back of the proverbial camel. There, on the walls of his own home, in so conspicuous a place that they almost spoke for themselves were the commandments, which are printed herewith:

"Tillie," he said, "Was last day?"

"Things you have to do, William," she answered. "You don't seem to be able to understand my spoken words, so I thought I'd have them printed for you. You see, they fit your case exactly, and the best thing for you to do is to do exactly as you're told."

There are tides in the affairs of men that lead to the divorce court, and this was one of them. The very next day Mr. Schneekobler began proceedings and based his suit on the printing he had seen on the wall.

A day or two later Mrs. Schneekobler was formally notified of what had happened, and why. "Well," she said, "if he's as big a fool as that I don't care how many divorces he gets."

This was all the answer she made to the suit, and so Judge Haney severed the Schneekobler nuptial knot. He expressed the opinion that people had sufficient difficulty in living up to existing commandments without framing new ones.

Mr. Schneekobler lives in a room by himself now, and at least it is his. Mrs. Schneekobler has gone home to her mother and tells her friends it was all a joke that William was too dull to see.

That doesn't alter the fact, however, that this is the queerest cause for any divorce ever granted in Chicago, the city of divorces. Among all the curiosities of the World's Fair where the Schneekobler romance began, there was nothing more odd.



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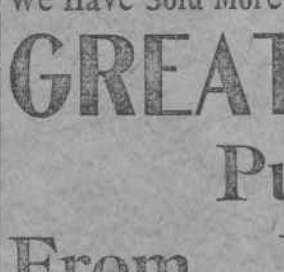
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